

The Intelligencer.

The Hon. Henry C. Davis Discovers a Huge Mar's Nest.

The Senator from the Sovereign State of West Virginia let off a speech yesterday on the National finances with which he has been dangerously and explosively charged for some time back—ever since he gave solemn notice of his intention to call for an investigation at an early day of the books of the Treasury Department. It seems that the Senator has been incubating for quite a while on the reports of that department. In looking over these reports in the quiet and coolness (we presume) of Deer Park, our financial Senator thought he saw the biggest kind of a mar's nest in them. Like Chicken-Little in the fable, he was sure the heavens were about to fall. "I see it with my eyes, I hear it with my ears, and here's a piece of it already." Not so much of a piece, however, after all. It turned out to be a piece a good deal like that \$38,000 deficit in the West Virginia Treasury—that remarkable mar's nest that Bennett and Bill discovered all to themselves, but that they cannot discover to the public.

Mr. Davis rose in the Senate yesterday "big with the fate of Rome," but we think he sat down feeling somewhat thinner. He undertook to show that there was something very rotten in the way accounts are kept in the Treasury Department. He announced that in the course of his examinations of the various reports of the Treasury he was "astonished to find changes and alterations of figures involving large amounts, causing them to differ widely from each other as to the transactions of the Department in the same years." He quoted extensively from the annual reports of the Navy, War, Pension and Indian Departments, making comparisons as to receipts and expenditures for several years, and claimed that the figures in some years showed an increase in expenses and in the public debt amounting, in the aggregate, to many millions of dollars. He also claimed that the amounts of the revenue collections "were increased or decreased as occasion might require by additions or subtractions from loans and Treasury notes, and that if there were errors or frauds an opportunity was given to attempt to cover them up." He quoted from the public debt statement for several years and "claimed that there were gross discrepancies between the figures of the Secretary and the Register of the Treasury, and that figures had been changed." "No matter," he said, "if it should be claimed that the books of the Secretary and Register differ, and no matter if these officers have different systems of book-keeping. There can be no satisfactory way in which to explain or answer why solemn official reports made to Congress and published to the country, and reported year after year, should, years afterward, be changed in the manner shown." After having made copious extracts from the reports of the various departments of the Government and from the Secretary of the Treasury, the honorable Senator solemnly remarked as follows:

"The figures and changes I have referred to in official reports are so very large and the amounts so enormous that I can hardly believe them myself, but after careful and earnest examination of the facts in reference thereto and some information as I can obtain after consultation with different officers of the Treasury Department, I am forced to declare that I can find no satisfactory explanation of them. If there is one, I should be glad to have it. If there is a Senator upon this floor, or an officer of the Government, who can explain to me the reasons for these changes and discrepancies, I hope he will lose no time in making himself heard; for, in my judgment, it is more dangerous than any default, no matter what the amount."

There happened to be a Senator present who could and did accept the invitation thus given, viz—Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Boutwell, who in answer to the invitation arose and proceeded to give the Senator from West Virginia some information as follows:

"He commenced by saying that there was nothing new in the Senator's statements. He would venture the opinion that an accurate knowledge of the books of the Treasury Department would dissipate all difficulties under which he was laboring. It occurred to him that the Senator from West Virginia in dealing with a great public question might have called on the present Secretary of the Treasury, and unfolded to him the difficulties, and asked him whether or not they were capable of explanation. He (Boutwell) was quite sure that it was in the power of the head of that department to explain them, and equally sure that it would have been his disposition to have accorded such explanation to him the Senator from West Virginia. There was nothing in that Senator's remarks that went to show that the books of the Treasury had been changed or tampered with by anybody. The statements presented to Congress and the country are prepared so that any person can examine the books and see that they are correct. Some of these statements were prepared in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, and showed the business in control of his office, and others were prepared by the Register, and showed the business in control of his office. He said the Senator from West Virginia in 1869 one of the first things he discovered was the fact that the books of the Department did not represent the actual amount of the public debt outstanding, and this arose from a succession of events since the office of the Department. The books showed that the debt of the States was less than \$40,000,000. Up to 1869 the Register of the Treasury only was required to keep account of the public debt. No account had been kept in

By Telegraph

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Gen. Garfield said that the Convention ought to be held where it would do the most good to the Republican party. Ohio was now one of the closest of the Republic States, but he hoped it would not be so in the future; and was also one of the great Western States and would lead in the election in October next in company with Maine, New Hampshire and Indiana. We cannot afford to lose Ohio and save the election to the Republican party. As to the city of Cleveland, sufficient money has been subscribed to build a wigwag and to furnish all other necessary accommodations.

Mr. Sherman, of Cleveland, made a few remarks in favor of that city.

Gov. Noyes gave reasons why the Convention should be held in Cincinnati. The Ohio delegation was here in behalf of no particular Presidential candidate. He showed the political advantages of holding the Convention there. The Exposition building would hold 15,000 persons and the hotel accommodations were ample.

Mr. McMillan advocated Chicago, and spoke of the arrangements made with the railroad companies for tickets at reduced rates, showing easy and cheap access to the city. Hotel accommodations were ample, with graduated prices. The Interstate Exhibition building is the largest structure in this country, with the exception perhaps of the Centennial main building, and is well adapted for the purpose. It will seat from 25,000 to 30,000 persons, in addition to the space required for the convention. He also presented other considerations why Chicago should be selected.

Saratoga Springs, Philadelphia, Washington, New York and San Francisco were named. Mr. Criswell, of West Virginia, invited the convention to meet at Wheeling.

An informal vote was then taken for fixing the place of meeting, with the following result: Cincinnati, 15; Chicago, 10; Philadelphia, 9; Cleveland, 4; Saratoga Springs, 2; Boston, New York, St. Louis and Washington, one each. Two ballots were subsequently taken with this result: Cincinnati, 20; Philadelphia, 16; Chicago, 7; No choice.

An adjournment then was voted, Mr. Frye suggesting that members wished to return to the House of Representatives, where important votes were to be taken on the amnesty question.

Senators Morton and Howe, and Messrs. Wm. E. Chandler, Gorham and Fulton were appointed a committee to prepare the usual call for a convention.

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The Committee reassembled at 7 o'clock, when the Chairman stated that the first business in order was the election of a place for holding the National Convention, but as there was a misunderstanding concerning the hour of meeting the Committee took up the report of the sub-committee on Call for Convention in order to afford time for the present members of the committee to be present.

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The Chair having announced that CINCINNATI WAS CHOSEN AS THE PLACE for the Convention, on motion the selection was made unanimous.

On motion, the Convention adjourned.

THE CALL.

The next Union Republican National Convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States will be held in the city of Cincinnati on Wednesday, the 14th of June, 1876, at 12 o'clock noon, and will consist of delegates from each State equal to three the number of its Senate and Representatives in Congress and of two delegates from each organized territory and the District of Columbia.

In calling a convention for the election of delegates, the committees of the several States are recommended to invite all Republican electors and all other voters, without regard to past political differences or previous party affiliations, who are opposed to reviving sectional animosities and to promoting friendly feeling and permanent harmony throughout the country by maintaining and enforcing all the constitutional rights of every citizen, including the full free exercise of the right of suffrage without intimidation or without fraud; who are in favor of the out-throwing of all un-American influences and of an economical administration of the government by honest, faithful and capable officers; who are in

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CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON JANUARY 13, 1876.

HOUSE.

All the galleries of the House of Representatives and the approaches to them were crowded to-day, in anticipation of the close of the debate on the amnesty question.

Mr. Cox offered a resolution instructing the Sergeant-at-Arms to invite to the cost of the printing done by Congress and the Executive Departments at the government printing office, and what similar work can be done for in the private office; also as to the cost of the Congressional record, &c., with a view of ascertaining whether or not it would be more economical arrangement cannot be made. Adopted.

Mr. Parsons offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice to inquire into the appointment of a special Council, for government cases paid them, and the extra fees paid the assistant attorney, the investigation to be extended as far back as may be necessary for a full knowledge of what has been and is being done in that connection. Adopted.

Mr. Whitcomb, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a resolution upon the Secretary of the Navy for a report as to the expenditures of appropriations made since July 1873, for the printing of inventions. Adopted.

Mr. Bennett, of Idaho, offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of incorporating into the Constitution an amendment providing giving the citizens of organized territories the right to vote for the President and Vice President. Adopted.

Mr. Cochrane offered a resolution for the appointment of a Special Committee to inquire into the expediency of the contract for the transportation of Indian goods and supplies. Referred.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Kentucky.

CINCINNATI, O., January 13.—The fourth ballot of the Kentucky Legislature for U. S. Senator, taken this noon, stands as follows: Beck, 41; Williams, 35; Leslie, 27; Stevenson, 20; Kelly, 10; Louisville, (Rep.), 15; Bradley withdrew.

Fifth ballot for Senator: Beck, 41; Williams, 36; Leslie, 26; Stevenson, 19; Kelly, 15.

Sixth ballot for Senator: Beck, 41; Williams, 36; Leslie, 26; Stevenson, 19; Adams, 1.

PENNSYLVANIA.

HARRISBURG, Pa., January 13.—The Senate and House passed a resolution this morning requesting the Senators and Members of Congress from Pennsylvania to vote for a Centennial appropriation of one million five hundred thousand dollars.

WISCONSIN.

MILWAUKEE, January 13.—Governor Lindstrom delivered his annual message this afternoon before the two Houses of the Legislature in joint convention. It shows that the gross receipts of the Treasury during the past year were \$2,129,151, the gross disbursements \$2,129,151. The debt of the State is \$2,352,557. Referring to the Fox and Wisconsin rivers improvement, the Governor says it is greatly to be hoped that the National Government will not pause in the prosecution of a work in which the interests of the State are so directly involved. The condition of the railway interests of the State are discussed at some length. He says that, except one short line, no railways are now being built within the State, and that none of the companies owning or operating lines within the State have paid a dividend for the past two years. He thinks that the Legislature has either justly or unjustly impaired the credit of the State and of its individual citizens. He therefore recommends the repeal of the Potter Law and the substitution of a new provision, to wit: That the State shall not be bound to pay for the first term of the year, and making provision for continued supervisory control over these corporations similar to that which has been found satisfactory in Massachusetts and Minnesota. An appropriation is recommended for the improvement of the Wisconsin river, and the Governor says that he has lost it by his crimes, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, had proposed in hot haste, without a debate, without an amendment, to drop every gentleman in the House to say aye or no on the bill declaring Jeff. Davis to be a member of the Republic.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Randall) had introduced a bill to confer a special honor on Jefferson Davis, and for that honor it could not be higher than the full panoplied citizenship of the United States. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, had proposed in hot haste, without a debate, without an amendment, to drop every gentleman in the House to say aye or no on the bill declaring Jeff. Davis to be a member of the Republic.

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